

Appl. No.: 10/767,248
Docket No.: 351913-992820
Response to Office Action of October 4, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. The Examiner allowed claims 3-4 and 7-23. By this response, claims 1, 5-6 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 2 is amended, and new claims 25-27 are added. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 24 Under §§102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,988,689 to Ochi et al. ("Ochi").

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochi or Ochi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,631,606 to Tran.

Claims 1, 5-6 and 24 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejections against these claims moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend on allowed claim 3, and thus is now allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection against claim 2 under §102(b) be withdrawn.

2. New Claims

Applicants submit new claims 25-27 that recite subject matter consistent with existing dependent claims and are dependent on allowed claims 4, 9, and 10, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims present

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no new matter, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees necessary for extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,
DLA PIPER US LLP

Dated: January 4, 2007

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